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AF 12873



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 2860.0691

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Tohru KIMURA et al.) Group Art Unit: 2873
)
Application No.: 09/976,077) Examiner: Timothy J THOMPSON
)
Filed: October 15, 2001)
)
For: OBJECTIVE LENS, COUPLING)
LENS, LIGHT CONVERGING)
OPTICAL SYSTEM, AND)
OPTICAL PICK-UP APPARATUS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(d), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period specified in § 1.97(c). Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by § 1.17(p) and a statement as specified by § 1.97(e). Please charge \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 06-0916 for the fee.

03/25/2004 JBALIHAN 00000034 060916 09976077

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Each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in communications from the European Patent Office in one or more counterpart foreign applications, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of those communications.

Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, Applicants enclose English language versions of two search reports from the European Patent Office relating to corresponding applications that cite these documents and set forth their relevance.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

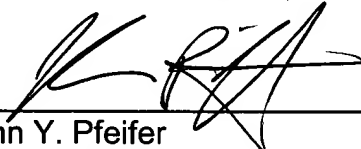
If there is any additional fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 22, 2004

By: _____


John Y. Pfeifer
Reg. No. 52,120

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below.

Date: March 22, 2004

Signed: _____


Linda Phillips



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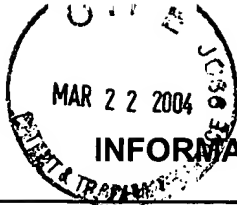
OMB No. 0651-0011

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	02860.0691	Appln. No.	09/976,077
Applicant	Tohru KIMURA et al.		
Filing Date	October 15, 2001	Group:	2873

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial*		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
		4,525,040	Jun 25, 1985	Nakamura			
		4,767,202	Aug 30, 1988	Hata et al.			
		4,909,616	Mar 20, 1990	Arai			
		5,479,296	Dec 26, 1995	Maruyama et al.			
		5,633,852	May 27, 1997	Maruyama et al.			
		5,880,893	Mar 9, 1999	Suganuma			
		6,078,554	Jun 20, 2000	Ootaki et al.			
		6,097,688	Aug 1, 2000	Ichimura et al.			
		6,411,587 B1	Jun 25, 2002	Arai et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
		EP 0 517 491 A2	Dec 9, 1992	EPO			
		EP 0 840 156 A2	May 6, 1998	EPO			
		EP 1 022 731 A2	Jul 26, 2000	EPO			
		EP 1 043 615 A1	Oct 11, 2000	EPO			
		JP 09197264	Jul 31, 1997	JP			Yes; Abstract only
		JP 11174318	Jul 2, 1999	JP			Yes; Abstract only
		JP 2001108894	Apr 20, 2001	JP			Yes; Abstract only
		WO 98/53450	Nov 26, 1998	PCT			
		WO 00/08641	Feb 17, 2000	PCT			
		WO 00/37982	Jun 29, 2000	PCT			
		WO 01/48746 A1	Jul 5, 2001	PCT			



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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	Ning, Alex, "Plastic vs. Glass Optics: Factors to Consider," (part of SPIE "Precision Plastic Optics" short course note), www.sunex.com , pages 1-9, November 17, 1998.

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce